



The Forest Emergency Recovery & Research Act

OVERVIEW

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act would provide our federal land managers the tools and resources necessary to complete a swift and thorough evaluation of forest conditions after an ice storm, wildfire or other catastrophic event and allow for expeditious plans to recover the health of these lands. It encourages public participation, follows an overwhelmingly bipartisan (and congressionally approved) appeals and litigation process, and requires collaboration with states, local governments, tribes, colleges and universities, and other interested parties.

COMPLIES WITH ALL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act requires an expedited National Environmental Policy Act procedural review and complies fully with all other environmental laws, including the Wilderness Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

SECURES PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO APPEAL AND LITIGATE PROJECTS

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act secures the public's right to appeal and litigate federal forest recovery projects using the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), which was approved with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress. (HFRA was passed in the Senate by a vote of 80-14 and in the House by a vote of 286 – 140)

INCREASES PEER REVIEWED SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act would increase the amount of peer reviewed scientific research conducted and made available to the public, federal land managers, and policymakers, ensuring that post catastrophic federal forest recovery projects are based on peer reviewed science.

IMPROVES PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act requires an expedited National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedural review used successfully in 1998 by the Clinton Administration in Texas on the Sabine, Angelina and Sam Houston National Forests to recover them and habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally-listed endangered species, after a severe windstorm.

DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE 1995 SALVAGE RIDER

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, unlike the 1995 Salvage Rider, secures the public's right to appeal and litigate federal forest recovery projects, requires an expedited NEPA procedural review and complies with other environmental laws, specifically limits and defines the conditions for tree removal, does not apply to green tree timber sales on federal forests, requires that any recovery project adhere to the approved forest management plan, and will be introduced as a stand-alone bill vetted fully in Congress.

TIMELY ACTION REPAIRS DAMAGED FORESTS AND REDUCES COSTS

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act requires that funds received from the removal of trees for recovery projects be used to help repair the catastrophic damage to our federal forests which would help offset the cost of critical watershed and wildlife habitat restoration.

STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act will be introduced by Congressmen Greg Walden (R-OR) and Brian Baird (D-WA) along with a strong bipartisan group of original cosponsors from across the country.

For additional information, please contact the Subcommittee on Forests & Forest Health (202.225.0691) or Congressman Greg Walden's office (202.225.6730).